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New Appointee Delays Discharge Ban

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) — The Department of Natural Resources Board has delayed seeking rules to ban discharge of polluting Polychlorinated Biphenyls into state waters at the request of board member John Brogan, a prominent stockholder in a paper company that discharges PCBs.

Brogan, one of Gov. Patrick J. Lucey's new appointees to the board, said he wanted more time to study the situation.

Brogan, Green Bay, holds stock in the Ft. Howard Paper Co., which the agency said discharged nearly three-quarters of a pound of PCBs daily during a test last fall. PCBs have been identified as toxic substances that possibly caused cancer in test animals.

Brogan told the state Senate Natural Resources Committee during hearings on his appointment that he would not vote on DNR matters affecting Ft. Howard, in which he holds 1,970 shares of stock valued earlier this month at nearly $50,000.

Brogan said Thursday he was one of Ft. Howard's major antagonists and forced it to go public with its stock.

He told a reporter who questioned him about a possible conflict of interest in delaying the PCB rules, "You raised it, I'm tired of having it raised."

Brogan said his statement to the Senate committee still stood.

MONS 030975